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THE
CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLDER,
OR
GUIDE TO FAMILY PRAYER.

THE

S.H.-1830

CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLDER,

OR

GUIDE TO FAMILY PRAYER.



BY THE

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LATE FELLOW OF ORIEL COLLEGE.

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296.



PREFACE.

IT is very desirable, not only that forms of devotion should be written with due regard to method in passing from one subject to another; but also that the method of them should be easily seen and followed. Unless care is taken, that the persons who are present at our family prayers may understand in an obvious manner when one act of worship ends and another begins, it is hardly possible that they can pray with the clear understanding and just feelings, which every Christian is anxious to cultivate and cherish by all means both in himself and in others. The following Forms of Prayer are specially intended to promote this good purpose;

and in order to do so the more effectually, each service is divided into three distinct parts, and consists of a Confession, a Thanksgiving, and a Prayer. The order of these is a little varied, as it seemed to suit best respectively with the circumstances of Morning and Evening: but there is no deviation from the general plan.

At the close of each of these three forms there is always of course a call upon those who are met together to offer their common supplications, to express aloud each for himself a particular interest in all that is said by the member who officiates. By this means it is hoped that the attention may often be kept fixed, or recalled to its right object from time to time, when it has begun to wander from it. If this be found to be a help towards so important an end, surely it is but wise that we should use it more than we do.



To those who know the value of this sort of method from the constant use of our Liturgy in public, and of Bishop Andrews's Devotions in private, it may seem extraordinary that it has not been applied more to improve our Family prayers. The writer of the present Manual is free to confess, that he has wished altogether to write after the spirit and manner of those exquisite models: it would have been blameable in him not to have attempted it, but he may have failed without blame.

After all, it is very possible that persons generally may prefer to keep to the method and forms they have been long accustomed to. Nothing more therefore is given in this first essay than just the forms for the week. If this be thought useful, it is hoped additions might follow after the same plan.

OUR Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom
come. Thy will be done in earth, as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation ;
but deliver us from evil : For thine is
the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Ghost, be with us all ever-
more. Amen.



SUNDAY MORNING.



THANKSGIVING.

O LORD GOD, our heavenly Father, thou art the Author of all our mercies, and to thee we desire to render our utmost gratitude and love. We praise thee for all thy goodness to us, which never fails, and is above all that we can know or think ; but especially for the great tokens of it, which we commemorate this day, in the creation and redemption of the world by Jesus Christ. Grant, O Lord, that,

3



as the creatures of thy hand, we may have grace, always to feel and act towards thee as our Creator ; and since we owe every thing to thy bountiful care, may we learn also to look up unto thee as our constant Preserver and Keeper. Above all, let thine unspeakable love and mercy, in giving thy Son to die for our sakes, be continually and effectually present to our minds, and draw us from loving thee with our whole hearts, to serve thee with cheerful spirits. May we know the power of his resurrection : that our faith in Him being steadfast, and our own hope of salvation increasing more and more, we may even now rise after Him



given them, and it is only through the help of thy Spirit that we can hope to improve them to our own spiritual good. Keep us ever mindful, O Lord, of our own weakness and unworthiness; and give us now, we pray thee, still greater cause to be thankful to thee, by granting to us the will and the power to use these mercies to the honour of thy Name, and the furtherance of our own salvation. Help us to shake off the hindrances of our corrupt nature and sinful habits. Strengthen us with might in the inward man; and quicken us by thy heavenly grace, that we may approach thee with joy in thy house of prayer, and delight more and more in

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to set forth his doctrine both by their preaching and living. Let the saving truth of thy Word, and all other means of grace, be made effectual to enlarge and purify thy Church. May the careless be awakened to an earnest concern for their souls. Cause the ignorant to receive instruction. Let the wandering be brought home to the true fold and the good Shepherd. And may all who strive to serve thee faithfully be taught, and comforted, and strengthened by thee. Unite us and all who are of the household of faith in one heart and in one mind, that we may live according to thy will in our several stations, to the praise of thy holy Name, as



well as to the furtherance of charity and peace among ourselves. And mercifully grant, O Lord, that our persons, our prayers, and all our services, may be acceptable in thy sight this day, for the merits of our only Mediator and Saviour, Jesus Christ ; unto whom, with thee, O Father, and to thee, O Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

*On a Sacrament morning let the following
be used instead of the foregoing.*

PRAYER.

Most gracious God, who hast so bountifully provided for all our

wants, and blessed us with so many comforts, we desire to thank thee for them all, and more especially for the richer provision which thou hast made for the life and happiness of our souls. Prepare us now, we beseech thee, to partake worthily of the sacred Ordinance which Christ himself did institute and bless, that we might be ever mindful of his love, and of the sacrifice which He was once made for our sins. Assist us, O Lord, as many as are about to commemorate his death, that our spirits may be truly fed and refreshed thereby ; and that we may embrace and hold fast with increased thankfulness the blessings He has purchased for us.

May we take this holy Sacrament with a lively faith in that Redeemer, whom in a figure it sets before us ; and, trusting in his own promise, that the Spirit shall dwell in the hearts of his people, may we be made happy partakers of the inward grace, of which this is an outward and visible sign. Teach us, we pray thee, and all who communicate with us, so to remember our Lord's death, as to mortify in ourselves those sins for which He died : and so to think upon his love to us while we were yet sinners, as to cherish and enlarge our own charity towards all men. And that we may live in his faith and service more and more, vouchsafe, O Lord,

to bless every means of improvement afforded to ourselves and others this day. Prosper abundantly the labours of thy servants ; the ministers of thy Gospel. Extend, O heavenly Father, the bounds of thy Church in all the world ; let the glad tidings of salvation be preached and received in every nation of the earth. And may we and all those who profess the Name of Christ depart from iniquity, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things ; that faith and piety, truth and charity, humility and purity, may be established and increase among us from generation to generation, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, to

whom, with thee and the eternal Spirit, be honour and glory, praise and thanksgiving, for ever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION.

Most merciful and gracious God, thou knowest the weakness of our nature and the strength of our temptations ! Have mercy upon us, we most humbly beseech thee, after thy great goodness ; and pardon us in whatever we have failed to improve the mercies and privileges

of this day. We bewail the wandering of our minds, the dulness of our understandings, and the deadness of our affections towards thee. We have reason to confess that we are miserable sinners in thy sight, and after our best endeavours altogether unprofitable servants. Grant, O Lord, that we may have a deep conviction of this upon our hearts and in our minds, so as ever to feel that in ourselves we are but sinful dust and ashes. Yet cast us not away from thy presence because of our unworthiness, nor take thy Holy Spirit from us! Remember thy covenant of mercy, wherein thou hast caused us to put our trust; and out of

thine own grace and goodness be pleased to forgive us our sins, to accept our services, and to continue towards us thy love and kindness, through our only Mediator and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, we most humbly and heartily thank thee for all thy goodness to us this day ; particularly for the helps we have enjoyed to know and serve thee better. We bless thee that we were born in a Christian land, and that by being baptized into thy holy Church, we have been ad-

mitted to all the means of grace, the communion of saints here, and the hope of heavenly glory hereafter. Increase, O Lord, our thankfulness to thee for the unspeakable tokens of thy love which thou hast given us by the Gospel. Kindle in our hearts a durable love and steady devotion to thee; that, under a grateful sense of thy goodness, and the constant help of thy grace, we may shew more and more in our own lives the power and praise of true religion. Let us not trust in a form of sound words or in the outward profession of the Gospel; but grant, that our privileges may have a blessed effect upon our souls; that we

may have the Spirit of Christ as well as his name ; and so practise the doctrine of our Saviour ourselves, as to promote his kingdom among our fellow-creatures by our own example, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER.

O God, the Maker of all men and the Ruler of all things, we beseech thee to look mercifully upon us and upon thy whole Church. Bless the good seed of thy Word which has been sown by the labours of thy faithful Ministers ; water it abundantly with the dew of thy grace ; cause it to be rooted in the hearts of thy

people, and to bring forth fruit unto perfection. Let those who have served thee this day sincerely, find their souls refreshed by the help and comfort of thine ordinances: may they be enabled to shine more and more as heavenly lights in a dark and sinful world. Let the wicked be converted from the error of their ways, and brought to the knowledge and love of thy truth. More especially, we pray for that branch of thy Church which thou hast set in this favoured land. Raise up amongst us, O Lord, a spirit of pure and primitive piety: and grant, that as we return severally to our common employments, we may shew there-

in the good effect of the means of grace in the holy temper of our minds, and the Christian conduct of our lives: that so, each day spent in thy courts, may help us to spend all our days as in thy presence, looking forward with brighter and brighter hopes to the coming of thy kingdom, when we shall go no more out of it, but live for ever with thee, through the merits of Jesus Christ, unto whom, with thyself and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, both now and for evermore. Amen.

On a Sacrament Evening let the following Prayer be used instead of the foregoing.

PRAYER.

O GOD, the Author of all good things, and the Giver of every perfect gift, we adore and bless thy Name for all the means of grace which we have enjoyed this day. Fulfil, O Lord, upon our souls all those holy and happy effects which Christ our Saviour intended, from the continual remembrance of his death, and from the Christian feast which we have been keeping after his commandment. Assist our weak desires and endeavours after heavenly things with the strength of thy help ; refresh our spirits with

divine consolation ; and enable us now to press forward more earnestly in the way of everlasting life. Bless all who have partaken with us of this holy Communion, or been with us in thy house of prayer. Grant, that from serving thee thus together, we may be firmly united in Christian love and kindness, and confirmed in all truth and righteousness. May our profiting this day appear in our lives every day, to the praise of thy Name, and the edification of thy people. O Lord, heal, we pray thee, the divisions which yet prevail among us, and bring all believers to be again of one heart and of one mind. Have mercy also upon all those who either know not thy

truth, or hold it in unrighteousness: let thy light shine upon their darkness, and reveal to them the grace and salvation which are by Jesus Christ. May his Gospel be preached in all the world, and be accompanied every where with the power of thy Spirit. Let thine elder people the Jews be led unto thy rest, and all the fulness of the Gentiles flow into thy Church; that Satan may be cast out, and thy kingdom established on everlasting foundations, and over all things, to the glory of thy name, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to whom be blessing and praise, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

THANKSGIVING.

O God, the Author of all good things, we desire to render unto thee our unfeigned thanks, for thine infinite mercies to ourselves and to all mankind. We praise thee for the refreshing quiet of the holy day which we have just passed; for the special means of grace with which we were then blessed; and for all the opportunities of improvement which we enjoy daily. Impress, O Lord, upon our minds a deep and lively sense of our great privileges, in living in a Christian land, and within the bosom of thy Church. Help

us to thank thee in our hearts and by our lives ; to shew forth our gratitude by living as in thy sight ; and to order our thoughts and tempers, our words and works, agreeably to thy holy will. Let our spirits rejoice in thy love, and our mouths be filled with thy praise all the day long ; that we may live in all things unto thee, and be gladdened with the perpetual light of thy countenance, through our ever-blessed Mediator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CONFESSION.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who in thy tender love towards us hast given thy Son to

die for our sins, have compassion upon our weakness, and forgive us all our manifold offences. We humble ourselves before thee for not having improved our spiritual advantages more as we might have done ; we acknowledge our transgressions against thee, beseeching thee to deal with us as sincere though unprofitable servants. May it please thee to make ours a repentance not to be repented of ! And as often as we thus confess our sins before thee, help us to enter into fresh and firmer resolutions to strive against them. But give us grace to strive in thy strength, and to lean faithfully on the aid of thy Spirit : that so, we may be able to

mortify our corrupt nature, and to put on day by day more of the new and divine nature to which thou hast called us in the Gospel, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER.

LORD of all power, and wisdom, and goodness, we humbly pray thee to be with us this day to guide and to bless us. Assist us mercifully, that now we are returning to our worldly employments, we may not wilfully return to any of our sins. And as our minds have so lately been turned in an especial manner to heavenly things, grant that we may be enabled to

bring down more and more of the life of heaven upon earth ; so as in our several stations and callings to walk before thee in true holiness, and in brotherly love one towards another. Correct, O Lord, our most secret principles, and purify all our motives ; that we may be Christians in the inner man, and obey thy will from the heart. Make us active and useful in the path of our duties. Let not worldly business distract us, or selfish pleasure ensnare us : let no temptation prevail to draw our minds away from thee. Be gracious, O heavenly Father, to every member of this household, and give us such things as are for our common welfare and

real good. Bless our friends, as they may happen severally to stand in need. Be merciful also to any who may be our enemies, and bring them to a better mind towards thee and towards ourselves. And grant, O Lord, unto us all, that we may so live, as to have peace with thee in this world, and in the world to come be numbered among thy good and faithful servants, for the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, one only and ever-blessed God, be all honour and glory, now and for evermore. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our most merciful Father in Jesus Christ, we humbly beseech thee to pardon all our sins, especially those which we have committed this day. When we remember whereof we are made, and how often and how greatly we have gone astray from thee, we feel that we are miserable sinners ; we desire therefore to humble ourselves before thee with unfeigned sorrow and contrition. May it please thee to give us such a deep and lasting conviction of our sinfulness, that we may earnestly repent of our manifold offences ; and that, trusting

to thy promises in the Gospel with our whole hearts, we may obtain of thee, the God of mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness. And pour also into our hearts continual supplies of thy grace and help, that we may be ransomed from the dominion of sin, and made free to love and serve thee in true holiness and righteousness all the days of our life, to the glory of thy Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

O LORD our God, thou art exceedingly gracious unto us, sparing us when we deserve punishment, and leading us to repentance by thy

continual goodness. We heartily thank thee for the pity and love which thou hast shewn towards us by encompassing our path with mercies on every side. We bless thee for our health and senses, and all our personal comforts ; for the happiness we enjoy as a family and among our friends ; and for the bountiful providence which is over all thy creatures. But above all, we adore and praise thy holy Name for the unspeakable love which thou hast shewn to us through Jesus Christ : in calling us to repentance through Him ; in admitting us to the mercies of the new covenant, and in opening unto us the gate of everlasting life. Suffer us not,

most merciful Father, to forfeit our privileges, or to make them ineffectual to ourselves by our own lukewarmness and unthankfulness ; but draw us unto thyself by a sense of thy kindness in filial affection and gratitude, that we may daily rejoice in thy goodness here, and be made full partakers of it in the world to come, through the merits of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER.

Most gracious God, we are encouraged by thy promises and mercies to put our trust in thy love and kindness more and more. We pray thee, therefore, to take us

into thy care this night: let thine all-seeing eye keep watch upon us, and thy fatherly hand be continually over us. We know that we are always exposed to many dangers both in our bodies and in our souls; and that we are helpless and wretched without thee. Glory be unto thee, that thou dost not leave us without hope, but graciously invitest us to repose ourselves and all our cares upon thee. Increase in us, O Lord, the habit of entire dependence upon thee, and of cheerful resignation to thy will. Grant that we may each of us be growing into a truly Christian state of mind, abounding in faith and thanksgiving towards thee, and in mutual

love one towards another. Be gracious also to all others for whom we should pray; bestow upon them severally the things which they need, but especially bless them as well as ourselves with divine grace and inward peace. Accept, O heavenly Father, these our supplications, and mercifully do for us more than we can ask or think, even as thine infinite wisdom sees to be good for us, for the sake of our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ; unto whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now, henceforth, and for evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

THANKSGIVING.

O God, whose goodness is everlasting, and over all thy works, we humbly thank thee for the manifold tokens of it which thou art constantly bestowing upon ourselves. We owe it to thy fatherly care, that we have passed the night in safety ; that we enjoy the blessings of a new day ; and that we have such innumerable comforts in our souls and bodies and estate. Accept, O Lord, our praise for thy kindness and love to us and to all men : but especially of the knowledge of thy salvation, and for all the spiritual

mercies and blessings with which thou hast blessed us in Jesus Christ. Grant that we may have such a sense of them always upon our minds, as to live by the faith of Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us. May we so rest our hopes upon his merits, that we may be justified in thy sight from all our sins; and so religiously walk in all good works, that this our present life may be a daily preparation and a heavenly discipline for the eternal life to come, through the mediation of the same thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION.

O God of all mercies, full of compassion to them that fear thee, we desire to cast ourselves altogether on the riches of thy goodness and pity, beseeching thee to pardon our iniquities, and to cleanse us from our sins. If thou, Lord, shouldest deal with us according to our deserts, we could have no hope. But there is mercy with thee, that thou mightest be feared, and that we might be encouraged still to cleave unto thee. O help us to be always of an humble spirit, under a true sense of our unworthiness, and to confess our sinfulness with entire sincerity and

openness of heart. Yet give us also a good hope in thy Word, and a just assurance that thy compassions towards us will not cease. May it please thee to strengthen our souls which are bowed down with infirmities, and vexed with temptations to evil! Lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, and grant us evermore the comfort of thy grace, for the merits of thy dear Son, and our only Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER.

O LORD, and Giver of all good things, we come unto thee, imploring thy favour, and most humbly beseeching thee to guard and

guide, to assist and prosper, us this day. To this end, we would commit ourselves and all our affairs into thy hands, believing that thou only knowest what will be good for us. Deal with us after thy wonted goodness and thine own unerring wisdom. Teach us to regard our present life chiefly as a passage to another and a far better life. Let the salvation of our souls and our growth in holiness be our main concern. And may we have grace to consider all things with a view to this one great end: that so, seeking first and by all means thy kingdom and thy righteousness, we may never doubt that all other things really

good for us will be added unto us. Help us, O Lord, and all who are dear to us, thus to trust in thy promises, and to live in the true faith of the Gospel. And shed abroad thy Spirit into the hearts of all men, that the knowledge and practice of thy true religion may spread more and more in this kingdom and in all nations, till thou alone art glorified throughout all the earth; and we and all people join in ascribing blessing, and praise, and salvation, to Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who knowest all things, and art acquainted with our most secret thoughts and works, we bow down before thee this evening, confessing our weakness and unworthiness, and most humbly beseeching thee to have mercy upon us. Forgive, O Lord, our forgetfulness of thee, our ingratitude towards thee, and our transgressions against thy laws. Forgive also the sins which we may have committed one against another. In many things we greatly offend; and in all things we need thy mercy.

Render not therefore unto us according to our iniquities, nor punish us as we deserve : but deal with us after thine own goodness, and the covenant thou hast graciously made with us in the Gospel. And grant, O Lord, that thy divine love towards us, especially as manifested in thy word, may so impress and rule all our minds, that we may neither despair of thy pardon, nor presume upon thy mercy : but in a thankful dependence upon thy promises, and in a conscientious improvement of the means of grace, walk before thee soberly, righteously, and godly, all our days, to the honour of thy Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

O LORD and heavenly Father, the Giver of all good things, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the poor returns of our praise and thanksgiving for the blessings of this day. It is only through thy divine care of us that we are so happy in our persons and family, in our callings and various relations of life. May it please thee to bestow upon us, and to maintain in us, that true wisdom of heart to trust and acknowledge thy love in all our concerns. Let our great worldly comforts bring continually to our minds our much greater spiritual ones ; and the mercies of

thy providence be a perpetual memorial of thy grace. Increase, O Lord, our thankfulness and our faith from the experience we have of thy goodness from day to day ; and unite our hearts in perfect love, obedience, and resignation to thee, for the merits of our most blessed Mediātor and only Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER.

THOU hast mercifully taught us, O Lord, to look up unto thee as our Father, and to seek unto thee for the supply of all our wants. We would glorify thee for this great privilege, by believing in thy Word, and by faithfully casting all



our cares upon thee. Blessed be thy Name that we have such a refuge to fly to, and such a good hope in thine unfailing mercy. Strengthen in us, O Lord, the disposition and the habit to trust thee in all things: that through thy grace assisting our daily endeavours, and making them effectual, we may become steadfast in our faith, and be always abounding in the work of the Lord. Be watchful over us, we pray thee, this night, and graciously defend us from all evil. Grant unto us quiet minds, and that safe and peaceful sleep, which thou givest unto those who are beloved of thee. Be favourable, O God, to the whole

race of mankind, and especially to each one of those for whom we are more particularly bound to pray. Bless the Church of which we are members, thy servants its ministers of every degree, and all thy people committed to their charge. Let thy true religion prevail more and more amongst us all, to the increase and establishment of truth and righteousness throughout the land. Open the means for the preaching of the Gospel in heathen nations. Give to all Christians the heart diligently to improve them, and grant that all their efforts may be according to thy will, and so evermore under thy blessing. Now unto the King eternal, immortal,

WEDNESDAY MORNING. 53

invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THANKSGIVING.

O God, the Father of mercies, without thee we are helpless and miserable creatures ; and it is only through thy goodness that our mercies are renewed day by day. We render unto thee our unfeigned thanks and praises for the blessings to which we are now awaked, and which we hope to enjoy in the way of our duty.

Blessed be thy Name for the gracious regard which thou hast shewn to our welfare, in making us capable of so much happiness as a family in our intercourse one with another, in filling our respective stations, and in doing the works of our several callings. But above all, we praise thee that thou hast confirmed this bond of union between us, by bringing us to be not only fellow-servants of one God, but believers also in one Saviour, and brethren in Jesus Christ. Teach us, O Lord, so to improve the mercies of the Gospel, as to increase continually our love to thee, and mutual charity among ourselves: that our hearts and

lives being ruled by thy Word and Spirit, we may be happy as Christians in this world, and be blessed as thy good and faithful servants in the world to come, for the merits and mediation of the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION.

O God, our Maker, thou knowest the weakness of our mortal nature, as well as our own actual transgressions. Make us also, we pray thee, so to know them, that we may be always sensible of our misery and danger without thee. Forgive us, O Lord, wherever we have been led away from thee, by yielding to the wiles of the devil, the

temptations of the world, or the evil that is in our own hearts. Vouchsafe not only to have mercy upon us for the sins which are past, but to prepare us also to stand upright against all the trials which await us this day. Hold thou us up, and then we shall be safe. Enlighten our minds by thy truth ; correct our tempers by thy Spirit ; excite our desires after thy promises ; and direct our whole lives by thy wise and good providence ; that we may be preserved from evil, and maintained in the paths of righteousness, for thy Name's sake, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the sovereign Lord of heaven and earth, give us grace to enter upon this day as thy servants, and to approve ourselves thine in our whole spirit and conduct. May we undertake nothing on which we may not look for thy blessing. Let all our motives be pure and upright, whatever we do ; let all our employments be such as it becomes Christians to follow ; and whatever we are engaged in, may we do it with all our might. Let those who rule in this house be examples of piety and faith, of truth and diligence, of gentleness and humility. Let those whose

duty it is to obey, be obedient in all things for conscience sake, and fulfil their duties with fidelity, cheerfulness, and affection. Grant, O Lord, that though we are many members, we may be of one heart and soul, and so may be but one body in Christ. May we shew the power and beauty of true religion in the whole tenor and conduct of our lives. Make us faithful and useful to our friends; kind and forgiving towards our enemies; considerate and compassionate towards those who are in error; tender and full of pity to the afflicted; and Christianly disposed towards all men. Let thy service engage our minds, and thy favour give us



prosperity and peace. And may we so spend this day, and all the days of our sojourning here in this world, as meanwhile to be steadily travelling onwards in the habit of our souls to a better and a heavenly country, through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God,
pour down upon us, we beseech

thee, thy mercy and grace, forgiving us all our sins ; and enable us to approach thee in humility, faith, and love. Remember not our offences either against thee or against each other. We would remember them with shame, and renounce them with our whole heart. Yet forasmuch as we can make no satisfaction for those which are past, we would also glorify our blessed Redeemer, by casting ourselves in lowliness of mind on his merits and mediation alone. Accept, O Lord, his one offering of Himself on our behalf, and acquit us of all our sins, through faith in his sacrifice and atonement. O Lord, we have no power in ourselves to help our-



selves ; be pleased therefore to endue us with power from on high to mortify all unholy inclinations and habits ; and to walk before thee in continual watchfulness and Christian duty. And though all our righteousness is as nothing in thy sight, may we at least no more grieve thy Holy Spirit by wilful negligence or transgressions, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

O LORD and heavenly Father, we humbly thank thee for thy daily and bountiful kindness to us and to all men. Thy glory is in the heaven above, and on the earth

beneath ; for every creature which thou hast made declares thy praise. It is of thee alone, that our own cup runneth over with blessings. We acknowledge that it is thou who givest us the health, and senses, and worldly substance, which we enjoy, and which we hold only at thy will. Thou preservest to us our friends, and protectest us from our enemies. Thy goodness has cast our lot in this favoured land ; and, together with so many other national mercies, has blessed us with the privileges of a Christian Church, wherein thy Name is feared, thy Gospel is preached, and thy Sacraments are administered. Grant, O Lord, that

we may shew our thankfulness to thee, by using these means of grace to the great end and purpose of all grace, the promotion of thy glory, and the salvation of our own souls. Continue, we beseech thee, to lead us by thy Spirit into all righteousness, and to nourish us with all goodness; and make us finally partakers of the fullness of joy, and of those pleasures which are at thy right hand for evermore, for the merits of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER.

O God, our Creator and Preserver, our Redeemer and Sanctifier, we flee unto thee at all times,

and depend in all things upon thy love. Let thy fatherly hand be over us during the night: be still gracious unto us, and mercifully bless us with rest and peace, with safety and comfort. But above all, bestow upon us the divine gift of inward peace, by establishing us in the hopes of the Gospel, and in the love and practice of thy true religion. May the Spirit of Christ be seen more and more in each one of us; that there may be nothing like selfishness or bitterness, worldly-mindedness or covetousness, unbelief or lukewarmness, amongst us. May we all part now, and meet on the morrow, in unfeigned love and kindness. And mercifully grant, O Lord, that all



who are called Christians may have grace to abhor whatever is evil, and to cleave to that which is good: that, living together in truth and charity, and bringing forth the fruits of the Spirit, we may adorn that holy faith which we profess, and promote thy kingdom on earth, by the consistency of our lives, as well as by the purity of our doctrine. Unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

THANKSGIVING.

O God, whose eye is upon us, and whose hand is over us by night and by day, and who art wont to do for us beyond all that we can ask or think ; we bless thy holy Name for all our mercies, past and present, bodily and spiritual, temporal and eternal. We thank thee for the safety and quiet in which we have laid down and slept, as well as for the talents and blessings of another day. We cannot praise thee worthily for our commonest enjoyments, much less for thine adorable goodness and infinite

loving-kindness in the dispensation of the Gospel. Yet we pray thee, O Lord, out of thine abundant mercy in Christ, to accept our imperfect and unworthy praises : and graciously bestow upon us further, the greatest of all blessings in this life, a due sense of thy love, and a constant habit of Christian thankfulness. And forasmuch as it is from thee only that all good things do come, and through thy help alone that we can use them to our lasting welfare ; may it please thee to incline our hearts continually to employ them faithfully and charitably to the glory of thee, our heavenly father, the benefit of thy Church, and the furtherance of our own sal-

vation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION.

O LORD GOD, who searchest the hearts of the sons of men, and from whom no secret thing is hidden; we humbly beseech thee to grant unto us thy servants the grace of true humility; that we may ever remember the weakness of our mortal nature, and heartily repent of the sins of our own lives. Have mercy upon us, miserable sinners, and forgive us those things in which we have most justly provoked thy wrath and indignation against us, by thought, word, and deed. We confess with shame

the sins of our youth, and our later transgressions, our secret and open sins, the evil which we have done, and the good which we have left undone. We bewail our unworthiness, and implore thee to have pity upon us after thy great goodness, and according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. And because we are so helpless in ourselves, endue us, O Lord, with an increase of spiritual strength and constancy, as our peculiar circumstances may require. Especially dispose us to be more watchful as to those things in which of ourselves we are most inclined to evil: that we may always be meek and lowly, under a true sense of our in-

firmities, yet strong by thy grace,
and happy in thy mercy, through
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER.

O God and Father of us all,
who art above all, and through all,
and in all; we heartily desire to
commend ourselves and all our
concerns to thy wise and gracious
disposal. And as thou hast taught
us to pray to thee from day to day,
mercifully grant that we may grow
up thereby into a habit of per-
petual dependence upon thy care,
and complete resignation to thy
will. Give us grace to rely upon
all thy promises with a fixed and
unwavering faith; and especially



upon that covenant of mercy, whereby thou art reconciled unto us in Jesus Christ. Awaken, O Lord, within us such a lively sense of our need of Him, and work in us such a disposition to rest upon Him as our only Saviour, that we may be Christians in spirit and life, as well as in name and by profession. Help us to remember the promises we have all made when we were baptized into his death, and to keep those vows which we have since renewed, to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Teach us to find our chief happiness in thy love and service, to worship thee in spirit and in truth,

and to trust in thee at all times. May we also express and adorn our holy religion, by being careful to maintain good works in those things which are good and profitable unto men. Be favourable, O Lord, to all our fellow-creatures; more particularly to our friends, and neighbours, and countrymen. Bless our King, and all persons in authority: give them grace to rule according to thy laws, and to be themselves examples of piety and virtue. Be gracious also to all those who are in subjection under them, dispose them to be obedient out of love and for conscience sake; that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all

godliness and honesty. Now unto Him, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords ; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto ; whom no man hath seen, nor can see ; to Him be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we bow down before the throne of thy mercy, most humbly

beseeking thee to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances. We confess that we have transgressed against thee in thought, word, and deed. If thou, Lord, wert extreme to mark what we have done amiss, we could never abide thy judgment! Glory be unto thee, that there is so great mercy with thee, as to encourage unworthy creatures like ourselves still to fear and love thee. We ask to be forgiven, and we seek to be accepted, not for our righteousness, but for that Saviour's merits, whom thou hast set forth to be the propitiation for our sins. Grant unto us, we pray thee, true repentance, and endue us with the



grace of thy Holy Spirit, to amend our lives according to thy word, to lead them according to thy will, and to conclude them in thy peace, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

O ETERNAL GOD, who hast made us thy children again by adoption and grace, we adore thee for the infinite riches of thy goodness to us in Jesus Christ. We thank thee for all the blessings we enjoy in common with our fellow-men and fellow-Christians ; for all the mercies of our creation, preservation, and redemption. We have also to praise thee more particu-

larly for innumerable other good things, which thou hast bestowed specially upon ourselves, in our own persons, in our family, and in our friends. It is thy care which has kept us from harm, and supplied us with so many private comforts. It is thy grace which has made us a Christian household, and enabled us, if we have been able in some measure, to live according to thy Gospel. Accept, O Lord, our united thanks and praises, and render them daily more acceptable unto thyself, through the gracious influence of thy Spirit upon our spirits; that our whole lives may be a constant sacrifice of thanksgiving, well-pleas-



ing in thy sight, for the merits of our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER.

O God, in whom our souls alone can find quietness and rest, we desire to commend ourselves in humble faith to thine ever-waking providence and abundant grace. Protect us while we sleep from all the snares of evil; and dispose us as far as we are capable of it to that only which is good. May our late and early thoughts be of thee, and full of thy love. Be pleased to refresh us with healthful repose: and if it be thy will that we should wake to another day, grant that we may

resist all the temptations of sloth, and arise cheerfully to follow our several vocations in Christian faith and holiness. Or if thou art pleased that our eyes should be closed this night for ever on this world, mercifully prepare us for such an event, and receive us unto thyself. To this end we would truly repent us of all our former sins, stedfastly purposing to lead a new life; we would profess a lively faith in thy mercy through Christ, and be in charity with all men. And bless, O Lord, the whole race of mankind, even as ourselves. Pity the sick and afflicted; and teach them to bear their sufferings patiently and pro-

fitably. Convert the careless and ungodly ; instruct the ignorant and misguided ; and prosper all thy true servants with the abundance of grace and peace. Increase the number of sincere Christians in all lands, especially in this church and kingdom, that thou being our God and we thy people, thy blessing may rest upon us from generation to generation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, unto whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

THANKSGIVING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast made all things, and preservest them continually, in whom also we live, and move, and have our being; we, thy weak and unworthy creatures, adore thee for thine infinite goodness, and wisdom, and power, particularly for the manifold tokens of them which we ourselves have seen and felt. We would praise thee from the ground of our heart, and magnify thy Name with all our strength. Our best returns of gratitude and love have nothing in themselves to commend them unto thee; we



know, O Lord, that they can be pleasing in thy sight only when they are presented unto thee by Jesus Christ. For his sake we beseech thee to receive them favourably, and to look graciously upon us this morning. And fill our souls more and more with a due sense of thine unbounded love, in that thou didst not spare thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for us all. May we have grace so to understand and remember this thy great mercy to us, as to abound in thankfulness all the day long, and so as never to doubt that with Him thou wilt also freely give us all things, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



CONFESSION.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who knowest our nature, and art thoroughly acquainted with all our ways, we would open our hearts before thee, meekly confessing our unrighteousness and our sins. Be favourable unto us, be favourable unto us, we most humbly beseech thee : and grant, that we, lamenting our unworthiness, and truly believing in the prevailing name and work of thy dear Son, may now and evermore be regarded by thee as thy repentant and reconciled children. And let not, we pray thee, the sense of our sins so pass away from our minds, but



that we may be always conscious of the weakness of our nature, and watchful against the deceitfulness of our own hearts ; and endeavour, through thy help, to live constantly as thou requirest of us ; to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thee, our God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of all goodness, and the strength of all them that put their trust in thee, take us this day, we humbly beseech thee, under thy divine care, and enable us to spend it in thy service. And grant, that in serving



thee we may find perfect freedom, and be delivered thereby from the bondage of sin and servile cares, into the liberty of those who confide in thy providence and grace. May every member of this family truly and devoutly serve thee. Let there be nothing like hypocrisy or vain shew, nothing like lukewarmness of affection, or unsteadiness of principle, or inconsistency of conduct, among us. May we study to maintain and manifest, each in his proper station, the spirit and temper and behaviour of sincere Christians. And may it please thee to be with us and with all for whom we should pray, wherever we are, or whatever we



are doing, that we may discharge our several duties industriously and prosperously. Give us grace to cast off the works of darkness, and to approve ourselves in all things the children of light: so that finally we may attain to light of everlasting life, through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ; who, with thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, blessed for evermore. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION.

O God, who delightest in mercy, and who hast promised for the

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sake of thy dear Son to forgive all those that turn unto thee by timely repentance with true faith; we most humbly implore thee to have compassion upon us, and to blot out all our misdeeds. Pardon us, that we have not been more watchful against temptation, more diligent in our duties, and more spiritually-minded at all times. Forgive us also, if there has been any unholy feeling or unchristian behaviour amongst us one towards another: or if we have not done to all others as we would they should do unto us. We humble ourselves before thee, O Lord, for many things which we are conscious have been sinful in us this



day ; but how many more hast thou seen, which through our ignorance or carelessness we have not regarded. Adored be thy holy Name, for the good hopes thou hast given us in the Gospel, and particularly for the atonement to which thou hast encouraged us to look, that was once made for sin upon the Cross. Increase, O Lord, our sorrow for our own sins, and our faith in that blessed sacrifice ! And mercifully grant, that the sense of thy love may so strongly rule our hearts, as to make us careful to cease from evil, and to learn to do well, through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

ALMIGHTY God, through whose gracious care we have passed this day in the midst of mercies and blessings, we desire to end it in rendering unto thee our common praises, and in offering up unto thee the best affections of our souls. Our warmest thanks are but a poor acknowledgment of thy goodness, and we ourselves are altogether unworthy to offer them. We do not present them, O Lord, for their worthiness, but only to tell out, from the fulness of our hearts, our own gratitude and thankfulness. Pardon, we beseech thee, the imperfection of our best



services : accept the sincere expressions of our love and duty towards thee : and grant, that the thoughts of our minds, and the works of our hands, may be daily more and more consistent with the adoration and praises of our lips, and to thy honour and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER.

Most gracious God, as we bless thy holy Name for the events of this day ; so we would pray thee also by thy continued goodness to sanctify them unto us. Be pleased to make them all ; work together for our good. In whatever we have been prosperous, help us

therein to be more useful and active in thy service. When we are tried and afflicted, give us grace still to rejoice in thee, and to be cheerfully resigned to thy will. Let our enjoyments enliven our faith, and our sufferings prove and strengthen it: and may both accustom our minds to lean singly and affectionately upon thee alone. Defend, O Lord, and bless us, and all that is ours, this night. Let grace and peace be with us, and with all that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. And assist us by thy good Spirit so to repose on thy goodness and wisdom, as to commit ourselves to thy sovereign disposal of us, whether for life or



for death. May we devoutly rest in a happy expectation of that time, when our sun shall no more go down, when the Lord shall be our everlasting light, and the days of our mourning shall be ended. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

THANKSGIVING.

O ALMIGHTY God and heavenly Father, through whose care we are brought to the morning of another day, we thank thee for the innumerable mercies which we enjoy, and which assure us of thine unceasing goodness. We are all the creatures of thy hand, entirely dependent upon thee for life and sustenance, for sense and reason, for all our present comforts, and for those unspeakably good things which thou hast set before us in the world to come. Assist us, O



Lord, by thy grace, that, although we can never conceive of thy goodness worthily, we may continually advance to love thee more and more. And while we acknowledge thy hand in all our temporal concerns, let the sense of these thy mercies quicken our thankfulness also for the means of grace and salvation. Blessed be thy Name that we were born in a Christian land, that we were so early dedicated to thee by baptism, and that as members of thy Church we have the light of thy Word and the help of thy Spirit. Grant that we may wisely improve these inestimable privileges, and, under a due sense of them, render unto

thee the constant praises of our lips, and the cheerful services of our lives, both this day and all days, through Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

CONFESSION.

Most merciful God and Father, who willest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live; and who hast graciously promised, that whoso confesseth and forsaketh his sins shall have mercy; we beseech thee to have compassion upon our infirmities, and to blot out all our iniquities. Forgive, O Lord, our many and grievous sins which are past: forgive us

also that we are daily leaving undone those things which thou hast commanded, and doing those things which thou hast forbidden. Pity, we pray thee, the frailty of our mortal nature, and the strength of those sinful habits which have had dominion over us. And may it please thee to open the eyes of our mind to understand thy promises and thy truth, that we may exert our Christian privileges, and break the bonds of our sins. Deliver us, O God, from the snares which beset us in our different characters and callings. Let the time past suffice to have indulged our evil inclinations, and enable us now to mortify them, by living



sober, righteous, and godly lives,
to the praise of thy holy Name,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER.

O LORD God Almighty, we humbly ask thy blessing this day. Grant that we may be guided in all things by thy Holy Spirit, that we may live together in our various relations to each other, after the will and example of Christ our Saviour. Preserve us from uncharitable feelings, from perverse tempers, and from every thing else that becomes not a Christian household. Make us active and useful in our several and particular occu-

pations ; not as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, as those who fear and serve the Lord. May we be sincere and kind in all our dealings. Teach us to do nothing but good to those who may do evil to us. Let no corrupt communication or idle words proceed out of our mouths. Bless, O Lord, all with whom we have any society : grant that to the best of our powers we may be a blessing to them and they to us. Give thy grace also to this and every Christian family, that each may plentifully bring forth all the fruits of the Spirit in the neighbourhood where we dwell, and live agreeably to our holy profession. And may



the practice of true piety be thus promoted more especially in this Church and nation, and the Gospel both preached and adorned in all the world, to the advancement of thy kingdom, and the salvation of many souls, through our Lord Jesus Christ, unto whom, in the unity of the Father and the Holy Ghost, be praise and dominion now and for ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION.

Most holy and merciful God,
we humble ourselves before thy

glorious Majesty, confessing with shame and sorrow our evil inclinations, and our sinful lives. We would repent of many things we have done and said and thought during the week which is now past for ever, and during the day which is now closing. We have transgressed against thee, O Lord, and there is no health in us. We bow down before thee as sinners ; we would not excuse or justify ourselves in thy sight ; but, meekly acknowledging our unworthiness, implore thee to forgive us our sins for our Saviour's sake. And we earnestly pray, that we may so believe in his Name, as to be delivered from all our offences,

and to have that peace which passeth all understanding. May thy Spirit fill us with a true and lasting penitence, that we may strive against sin with all our might ; that all carnal affections may die away, and all things belonging to that holy Spirit may live and grow in our hearts. May we be so continually refreshed by thy grace, and so strengthened with power from on high, that the old man may be buried with Jesus Christ, and ourselves be raised with Him to newness of life, through the same our ever-living Redeemer and only Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

O LORD and heavenly Father, the Author of all our blessings, we thy undeserving creatures offer unto thee our hearty thanks for thy constant and great mercy towards us. We adore the goodness which is over all thy works, and through which every living thing partakes thine endless bounty. We praise thee for the blessings of this life ; but above all, for the promise of eternal life through the knowledge of thyself, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent : for the light of the Gospel, and all the blessings of the covenant of grace. Grant, O Lord, that we may shew our

thankfulness as a Christian family, by trusting and serving thee, and by feeling and acting one towards another, in the spirit of that Gospel. And may we have grace so to use all our mercies and all our privileges, that by thy goodness they may be still continued to us while we are here upon earth, and be a blessed means of bringing us finally to partake of thy heavenly good things, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER.

O ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who hast graciously brought us to the conclusion of another week, whilst we thank thee for all the



time which thou art pleased to give us, we would also pray thee most heartily to enable us to improve this gift to our everlasting welfare. Grant that this and every notice we have that it is passing away, may help to awaken us to watch and be sober, as those who expect the end of all things, and the sudden coming of their Lord. May we thus grow more temperate and self-denying as to the things of this world, and able to set our affection on things above. While we live, may we live unto Christ ; and when we die, may death be unto us, through his merits, unspeakable and unending gain. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to protect us this night from



all evil; and be merciful to others even as unto ourselves. And if thou art pleased to bring us to the beginning of a new day and week, renew in us all holy desires, and strengthen our abilities to serve thee in all things according to the Gospel of thy dear Son, unto whom, together with thyself and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed, by us and by all men, adoration and thanksgiving, blessing and honour, dominion and power, both now and for evermore. Amen.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give

us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

THE END.



